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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09:976,639	10/11/2001	Takehiko Shoji	56232.8 [4829]	2040

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EXAMINER

MORAN, TIMOTHY J

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2878

DATE MAILED: 08/29/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/976,639

Applicant(s)

SHOJI ET AL.

Examiner

Timothy J. Moran

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on ____.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) ____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) ____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-6, 8, 10, and 16 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 7, 9 and 11-15 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) ____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on ____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on ____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. ____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) ____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). ____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Information Disclosure Statement

The listing of references in the specification is not a proper information disclosure statement. 37 CFR 1.98(b) requires a list of all patents, publications, or other information submitted for consideration by the Office, and MPEP § 609 A(1) states, "the list may not be incorporated into the specification but must be submitted in a separate paper." Therefore, unless the references have been cited by the examiner on form PTO-892, they have not been considered.

Specification

The lengthy specification has not been checked to the extent necessary to determine the presence of all possible minor errors. Applicant's cooperation is requested in correcting any errors of which applicant may become aware in the specification.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

This application currently names joint inventors. In considering patentability of the claims under 35 U.S.C. 103(a), the examiner presumes that the subject matter of the various claims was commonly owned at the time any inventions covered therein were made absent any evidence to the contrary.

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Applicant is advised of the obligation under 37 CFR 1.56 to point out the inventor and invention dates of each claim that was not commonly owned at the time a later invention was made in order for the examiner to consider the applicability of 35 U.S.C. 103(c) and potential 35 U.S.C. 102(e), (f) or (g) prior art under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

Claims 1-5, 8, 10, and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arakawa, U. S. Patent No. 4,501,683 in view of Arakawa, U. S. Patent No. 5,877,508. Regarding claims 1-5, Arakawa('683) describes a radiation image storage panel comprising a support, a phosphor layer, and a protective film (see abstract), where the protective film has high transmittance (col. 6, lines 31-40) and a haze value in the range 8%-20% (col. 10, lines 33-42). Here the term "haze value" is understood to be equivalent to "haze ratio." Arakawa('683) does not teach specific values for the transmittance of the protective film. However, Arakawa('508) teaches that the transmittance of such a protective film should have a transmittance value in the range 80%-100% (col. 4, lines 3-12). The disclosed range encompasses the claimed range, making it obvious (see MPEP 2144.05).

Regarding claim 8, the use of tinted protective layers to absorb stimulating light is well known in the art of stimutable phosphor panels (present specification, page 19). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use such an absorbing layer in the panel of Arakawa('683) for the purpose of improving sharpness.

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Regarding claim 10, the use of thermo-welding resins on a surface is well known in the art (present specification, page 36, last paragraph and page 37, first paragraph). Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use such resins in the panel of Arakawa('683).

Regarding claim 16, the use of protective sheet which covers the whole of a phosphor sheet is well known in the art of phosphor sheets. Therefore it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to use such a film in the panel of Arakawa('683) for the benefit of complete protection.

Claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Arakawa('683) as applied to claim 1 above, and further in view of Kohda, U. S. Patent No. 4,939,018. Regarding claim 6, Arakawa('683) does not teach specific values for the water vapor transmission rate. However, Kohda describes a protective layer for a stimuable phosphor sheet, where the water vapor transmission rate of the protective film is in the range of (25 g/m² per day) to (150 g/m² per day). The disclosed range encompasses the claimed range, making it obvious (see MPEP 2144.05).

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 7, 9, and 11-15 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Claim 7 includes the limitations that a protective film in a stimuable phosphor panel has a water vapor transmission rate of not more than

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10 g/m² per day. Claim 9 includes the limitations that a protective film in a stimuable phosphor panel comprises two resin layers and at stimulating light absorbing layer between them. Claim 11 includes limitations that the surface roughness of a protective film in a stimuable phosphor panel is controlled as stated in the claim.

Conclusion

The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

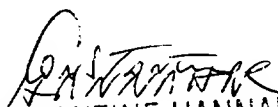
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Timothy J. Moran whose telephone number is 703-305-0849. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8:30-5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, David Porta can be reached on 703-308-4852. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-308-0956.

T.M.

TM
August 19, 2003


CONSTANTINE HANNAHER
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP ART UNIT 2878